

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00141 100039Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1279

S E C R E T TUNIS 0141

NODIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

REF : TUNIS 0140

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASY TRANSLATION OF LETTER BY
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO PRESIDENT FOR TRANSMITTED REFTEL:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE STUDIED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE LETTER WHICH YOU WERE
KIND ENOUGH TO SEND ME INFORMING ME OF YOUR VIEWS REGARDING
THE ANGOLA PROBLEM.

AS YOU KNOW; TUNISIA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA
IN THE FIGHT WHICH IT WAGED TO LIBERATE ITSELF FROM
PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD DETERMINE
ITS FUTURE IN A DEMOCRATIC AND SOVEREIGN WAY ONCE ITS
INDEPENDENCE WAS ACQUIRED.

I HAVE PERSONALLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT EACH OF THE
THREE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ANGOLA HAS INDIS-
PUTABLE POPULAR SUPPORT AND THAT THEY SHOULD, THEREFORE,
ALL THREE BE ASSOCIATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STATE.
THEREFORE, I HAVE MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO HELP IN THE
CREATION OF A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00141 100039Z

ALSO, I HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED TUNISIA'S

DESIRE TO SEE THE END OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLAN AFFAIRS, JUDGING THAT IF IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY FREEDOM-LOVING NATION TO GIVE AID TO PEOPLES CASTING OFF THE YOKE OF COLONIALISM, NO COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER AND TO IMPOSE ON AN ENTIRE PEOPLE ANY OF ITS FACTIONS.

THIS IS WHY TUNISIA HAS DECIDED TO OPPOSE ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, IN AFFAIRS WHICH CONCERN THE EXCLUSIVE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

I AM ESPECIALLY FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE INTERVENTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND REJECT THE ARGUMENTS IT ADVANCES TO JUSTIFY ITS PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, AND PARTICULARLY, THE FALACIOUS PRETEXT OF "HOT PURSUIT".

I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS PRESENCE IS SUCH AS TO BRING THE MOST SERIOUS HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF THE FNLA AND L'UNITA, BY MAKING THESE TWO MOVEMENTS APPEAR TO BE DE FACTO ALLIES OF THE APARTHEID REGIME.

FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD AIM AT PERSUADING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD NOT FAIL TO INCITE THE OTHER FOREIGN FORCES TO DO THE SAME OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO SUBJECT THEM TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES AND OTHER BY DEPRIVING THEM OF A MAJOR JUSTIFICATION.

I SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT GREAT POWER RIVALRIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM AFRICA BUT I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT TO OBTAIN A PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRO-SOVIET FORCES IN ANGOLA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD PUT SERIOUS PRESSURES ON THE SOVIET UNION.

SUCH A DEMARCHE -- ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION IN REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA -- WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HAVE CONSIDERABLE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ENTIRE CONTINENT AND A DECISIVE EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE WORLD BECAUSE IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE ALL ATTEMPTS BY THE SOVIETS TO EXTEND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TUNIS 00141 100039Z

THEIR INFLUENCE "OUTSIDE THEIR TRADITIONAL SECURITY AREA."

TUNISIA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS FOR A RECONCILIATION AMONG THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH COULD PERMIT THE COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES TO ALLOW THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON THE REGIME AND THE LEADERS OF ITS CHOICE.

THIS, IN ITS BROAD LINES, IS THE POSITION WHICH TUNISIA
WILL STRIVE TO SEE PREVAIL AT ADDIS ABABA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY. SALUTARY CLOSE, SIGNED HABIB BOURGHIBA.
KING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS00141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840105-0773
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760169/aaaacjvu.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 TUNIS 140
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, AO, US, TS, (FORD, GERALD R), (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006